

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

19 DECEMBER 1963  
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. We expect another flare up in Viet Cong guerrilla activity this week.

b. The Communists have all but publicly promised a new push as their way of commemorating the third anniversary Friday of the so-called "national front for the liberation of South Vietnam," the political arm of the Viet Cong forces.

c. Viet Cong activity has diminished in the past fortnight, perhaps to rest the troops for the new effort.

d. There is little doubt that Viet Cong capabilities have been improved recently with the capture of substantial quantities of government weapons

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2. Cambodia

Sihanouk laid down three conditions the US must meet before he would receive an envoy like Dean Acheson to talk about "normalizing" relations.

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b. Besides several apologies, he is demanding once again that we "silence" the Khmer Serei radio. Yesterday he repeated these demands in public.

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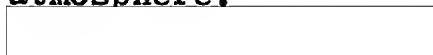


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e. In a speech yesterday Sihanouk declared he had not decided how to respond to the overtures from Saigon. Talks in Phnom Penh with South Vietnam's emissary are proceeding, we understand, in a "friendly" atmosphere.

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### 3. Cuba-US

a. Castro is said to be following a wait-and-see policy toward the new administration in the US.

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Castro directed the Cuban government to refrain from public attacks on President Johnson and to do nothing to irritate him.

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**4. India-USSR**

**a. New Delhi**

[redacted] to place orders for  
[redacted] surface-to-air missile com-  
plexes with the USSR.

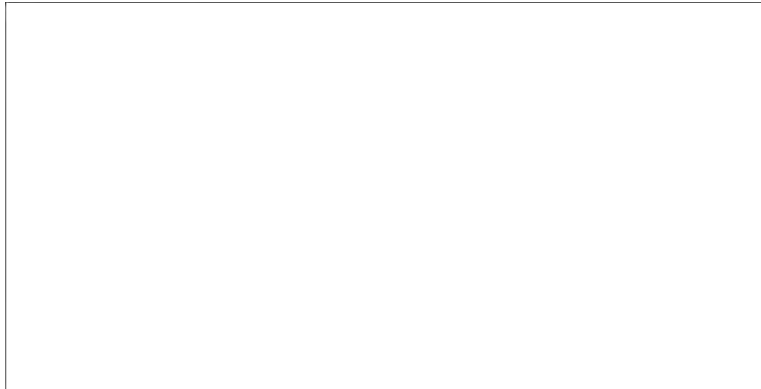
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5. Saudi Arabia

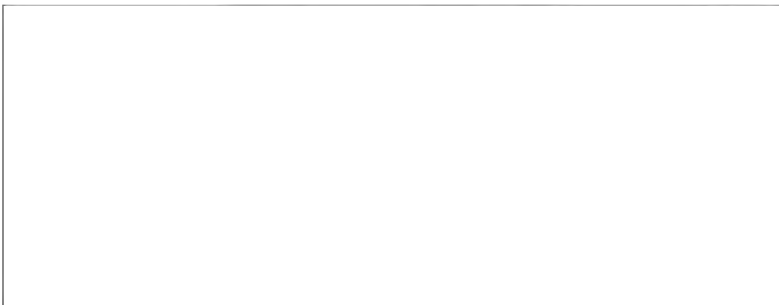
a. Prince Faysal at last reports was successfully riding out his struggle with King Saud, who wants to take over the government again.



6. USSR-Algeria

a. The Soviet vessel Nikolai Burdenko docked at an Algerian port yesterday with what we believe was primarily a military cargo 

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NOTES

- A. USSR An earth satellite vehicle was launched from Tyuratam [redacted] If normal procedures are followed, a TASS announcement on the event can be expected [redacted]  
[redacted]
- B. USSR-Cuba [redacted]  
[redacted]
- C. Cuba Castro, who still has the old-line Cuban Communists on the defensive, is expected to remove more of them from positions of influence. Outside of durable and able agriculture chief Rodriguez, few in fact remain in high positions, but they are strong in the middle and lower echelons of the military and the party.
- D. Iraq The Baathist plotters have not yet made their move, but Baghdad remains uneasy in the expectation that some sort of government-Baathist confrontation impends.
- E. Yemen We have now been able to confirm [redacted]  
[redacted]  
that the Yemeni executive council and cabinet have resigned. This could mark the beginning of a new crisis between the Egyptians and Yemeni elements who resent the ubiquitous Egyptian presence. [redacted]

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- F. Peru President Belaunde Terry's coalition government received a resounding vote of confidence in the municipal election early this week. In many cases government candidates ran stronger than did the President's own ticket last June.
- G. USSR-Ghana A much smaller group of Ghanaian students was back on the streets of Moscow this morning for a second day of protest on the death of one of their number. Moscow officials appear to be handling these demonstrations with restraint.